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ers, that can only be a cause of general gratification," its one-sided policy and its constructive ideals are alike invalid.

The book is graced by an introduction from the facile pen of Mr. L. L. Price of Oxford. It is marred, especially toward the close, by typographical defects.

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*Boycotts and the Labor Struggle. Economic and Legal Aspects.*

By HARRY W. LAIDLER. (New York: John Lane Company. 1913. Pp. 488. \$2.00.)

Although the boycott has had its greatest development and its most extensive application in the United States, it has heretofore received careful study only at the hands of continental political economists, principally the Germans. From the studies of von Waltershausen published in the eighties to the more recent works of Maschke, Kestner, Schwittau, and others, the boycott, in all of its manifestations has been subjected to painstaking analysis from both the economic and juristic standpoints. Studies in this country, however, have been fragmentary in form and partisan in treatment; and have been designed primarily to establish the illegality or to justify the legality of the boycott. Those written by employers, or by their spokesmen, assumed from the first a highly denunciatory tone; whereas the representatives of labor organizations, condemning the adverse judicial decisions, saw in the boycott only an effective and a legitimate weapon to be used against the most oppressive of their employers.

In this first substantial American treatise on the boycott, Mr. Laidler, while exhibiting throughout his work a more sympathetic attitude toward the laboring than toward the employing class, is able to bring to the support of his contentions a variety of data and experiences that lend plausibility and force to his conclusions to a degree that earlier American writings on the subject lack.

The three divisions of the book are concerned with the history and forms of the boycott, with its legal status, and finally with the arguments that have been advanced for and against the legalizing of the boycott. In the first section there has been collected much interesting information of a descriptive nature. The second part contains within the convenient compass of less than a hundred pages a discussion of many important boycott cases, both here and abroad, and of the principles underlying judicial deci-

sions. The author concludes that the boycott as employed by labor organizations should be legalized. The employers possess great wealth, he argues; they are banded together in powerful employers' associations that inflict serious injury upon workingmen by the use of the blacklist; they employ spies to learn the secrets of labor unions and to disrupt them; when strikes are in progress they import armies of strike-breakers and soon enlist the support of the local police, the militia, and the courts. The laborers, on the other hand, are poor; their industrial battles must be fought in the face of a hostile public opinion fashioned by a press and a pulpit that have been subsidized by the employing class; as individuals they are able to extract from employers no concessions; strong organization is essential to their well-being. It follows, then, that such a weapon as the boycott, designed to foster the organization of labor, imperfect as it may be, susceptible as it is to abuse and violence, is made necessary by the organization of modern industry which requires the use of abnormal industrial weapons. The author believes, too, that there is discernable a growing conservatism in labor-union officials and members that will tend to check recklessness and abuse in future applications of the boycott.

As the title of Mr. Laidler's book indicates, the greatest interest in the boycott turns upon its employment by organized labor. It would seem, therefore, that a prime requisite for a study of boycotts and the labor struggle should be a familiarity with the literature of labor organizations. In the endeavor to obtain this familiarity the author has studied the proceedings and journals of the American Federation of Labor, but has entirely neglected the wealth of material to be found in the publications of the many national and local unions in this country. The result is that he has greatly overestimated the influence of the American Federation of Labor as a boycotting agency and has, in addition, drawn conclusions from the unfair list of that organization which the actual facts in the matter do not warrant. It is, for example, misleading to refer to the watch-case engravers, the rubber workers, and the gold beaters as "the most active boycotting unions." In fact, all of these unions are so insignificant in size and influence as to be undeserving of classification as either "active" or "inactive" boycotting unions. Nor is it possible to deduce from the "We Don't Patronize List" published in the *American Federationist* whether or not The Coopers, for instance, was one of the unions which "had

the best success among those unions waging several boycotts" (p. 127). By the rule of the American Federation of Labor limiting the number of boycotts available to each national union, The Coopers could publish on the unfair list only three firms at any one time; in August, 1906, however, to take a typical instance, there were published in the *Cooper's Journal* (p. 549) the names of 70 firms unfair to that union. It is obviously impossible to determine from the small fraction of a union's complete unfair list, which is published in the American Federation unfair list, whether that union was successful or unsuccessful in waging boycotts.

The book suffers, too, from the use of the questionnaire as a device for collecting data in a serious investigation of a labor problem. Twelve firms which had been on the unfair list of the American Federation of Labor for periods varying from four months to three and a half years wrote to the author that they were unaware of even the existence of the boycott (p. 120). Little reliance should be placed upon such replies, many of which are not to be taken literally but merely as expressions of the spirit of bravado of individual employers. In actual practice, indeed, the American Federation of Labor makes it a point to communicate not once, but several times, with those employers whom it contemplates placing upon its unfair list, a procedure which renders highly improbable the alleged ignorance of the twelve boycotted employers. Equally futile is it to ask a union officer whether or not his particular union employs the boycott and, if it does, with what success (p. 127). In an interview with the reviewer this summer, several officials of the New York local union of the carpenters stated that they knew nothing of the boycott in that city on unfair trim; the fact is, however, that strikes against the installation of unfair trim are matters of almost daily occurrence in Greater New York, and have been so from 1896 to the present.

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*Ueber Syndikalismus und Lohnminimum. Zwei Vorträge.* By  
LUJO BRENTANO. (Munich: Süddeutsche Monatshefte  
G. m. b. H. 1913. Pp. 114. 1 M.)

Professor Brentano's lectures on phases of the labor problem are always significant. He combines with complete mastery of all of the details of the labor movement, a remarkable faculty for summing up compactly and yet vividly the essentials of his subject